

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed May 2, 2005 (hereinafter Outstanding Action), the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 19-24. Applicants herewith submit a request for continued examination. After entry of the amendments herein, 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 19-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21-24 are amended and the basis for the amendments may be found throughout the specification and drawings of the original application.

Section 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claim 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-17, and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,650,609 to Omori et al (hereinafter Omori). Note that the following discussions are submitted based on the amended claims.

CLAIM 1

Referring to the Examiner's drawing, Omori shows a stopper formed on the panel (60). However, claim 1 of the present application recites a rigid stopper connected to the front edge of the housing. The panel of the present application includes an extension surface corresponding to the rigid stopper, and the rigid stopper partially covers the extension surface of the panel for blocking a cracked disc. The housing, the rigid stopper, and the protrusion are formed integrally. Those skilled in the art may understand that the panel of Omori is not able to protect itself from the cracked disc. Moreover, the panel is typically made of plastic material by injection molding, which is not strong enough to block the cracked pieces of the disc. Referring to section [0004] of page 1 in the specification, the ejected cracked discs pass through a chink

between the tray and the housing and damage the panel and cover. In particular, the present invention provides a rigid stopper, e.g. a metal stopper, being strong enough to block the cracked disc. Thus, Omori fails to show a rigid stopper formed integrally with the housing and the protrusion and also fails to show a rigid stopper partially covers the extension surface of the panel.

Referring to col. 20, lines 6-18, Omori also discloses "a dust collecting member (131) substantially in the form of a band is attached at its upper edge (131a) by bonding or the like to the inner surface of the front panel." "The dust collecting member (131) is formed of a material foamed urethane and felt, having a dust collecting ability (to adsorb dirt and dust). The dust collecting member (131) serves also as a disc cleaning member." The dust collecting member (131) in Omori is made of different material and serves as different function compared to the present invention. Further, the dust collecting member in Omori also serves as a disc cleaning member, i.e., the dust collecting member must touch the disc for cleaning purpose (Fig. 33). It is apparent that the dust collecting member needs to be elastic or soft in order to prevent the disc from being scratched. Also, the dust collecting member is attached to the panel by bonding or the like rather than formed with the housing integrally. Those skilled in the art may understand that the dust collecting member, formed of foamed urethane and felt, served as a disc cleaning member, and attached to the panel by bonding, is unable to provide enough strength for blocking the cracked disc. In contrast, the rigid stopper in the present invention provides enough strength for blocking a cracked disc without touching a normally operated disc. Thus, Omori fails to show a rigid stopper formed integrally with the housing and the protrusion and also fails to show a rigid stopper partially covers the extension surface of the panel.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amended claim 1 satisfies the patentability requirement and is allowable.

CLAIM 6

Claim 6 recites a rigid stopper connected to the front edge of the housing. The panel includes an extension surface corresponding to the rigid stopper, and the rigid stopper partially covers the extension surface of the panel for blocking a cracked disc. The housing and the rigid stopper are formed integrally. Based on the above discussion for claim 1, Omori fails to show a rigid stopper formed integrally with the housing and the protrusion and also fails to show a rigid stopper partially covers the extension surface of the panel.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amended claim 6 satisfies the patentability requirement and is allowable.

CLAIM 11

Claim 11 recites a rigid stopper connected to the front edge of the housing. The panel includes an extension surface corresponding to the rigid stopper, and the rigid stopper partially covers the extension surface of the panel for blocking a cracked disc. The housing, the rigid stopper, and the protrusion are formed integrally. Based on the above discussion for claim 1, Omori fails to show a rigid stopper formed integrally with the housing and the protrusion and also fails to show a rigid stopper partially covers the extension surface of the panel.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amended claim 11 satisfies the patentability requirement and is allowable.

CLAIM 16

Claim 16 recites a rigid stopper connected to the front edge of the housing. The panel includes an extension surface corresponding to the rigid stopper, and the rigid stopper partially covers the extension surface of the panel for blocking a cracked disc. The housing and the rigid stopper are formed integrally. Based on the above discussion for claim 1, Omori fails to show a

rigid stopper formed integrally with the housing and the protrusion and also fails to show a rigid stopper partially covers the extension surface of the panel.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amended claim 16 satisfies the patentability requirement and is allowable.

DEPENDENT CLAIM

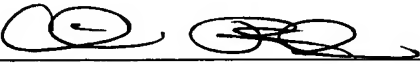
Claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9-10, 12, 14-15, 17; and 19-24 respectively depend directly or indirectly on allowable claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and include further features. Therefore the above claims should be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12, 14-17, and 19-24 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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